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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/891,638	06/26/2001	Nathan E. Perry	BELL-0121/01127	2837

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,638

Applicant(s)

PERRY, NATHAN E.

Examiner

Thjuan P. Knowlin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on October 11, 2005 has been entered. Claims 1, 11, 15, 21, and 22 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-24 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 11, 15, and 22 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al (US 5,329,578), in view of La Porta et al (US 5,563,939), and further in view of Clarke et al (US 5,802,157).

3. In regards to claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 22, and 23, Brennan discloses a method for blocking a call to a called line selected by a calling party, said calling party having a calling line identification number (e.g. CLID), said method comprising: obtaining a calling line identification number for said communication; obtaining a called line identification number for said communication; looking for said calling line identification number in a data store (See Fig. 1b, database 24, and callers list 26) to determine data

associated with said calling line identification number concerning calls from the calling line to a called line which are to be blocked; and terminating the call if the data indicates that the call is to be blocked (See col. 2 lines 17-27, col. 3 lines 62-68, col. 11 lines 24-46, and col. 13 lines 63-67). Brennan, however, does not disclose receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line from a calling line, said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service. La Porta, however, does disclose receiving an outgoing communication directed to a called line (See Fig. 1 and telephone set 112) from a calling line (See Fig. 1 and telephone set 101), said calling line associated with a subscriber to an outgoing call blocking service (See col. 6 lines 26-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the method, as a way of allowing a subscriber/user to be able to block outgoing calls to specific destinations/numbers.

However, neither Brennan, nor La Porta, discloses activating the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time and de-activating the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time. Clarke, however, does disclose activating (e.g. turning on the call block service according to schedule) the outgoing call blocking service at a first pre-set time (e.g. 10 PM) and deactivating (e.g. turning off the call block service according to schedule) the outgoing call blocking service at a second pre-set time (e.g. 6 AM) (See col. 1-2 lines 66-17 and col. 6 lines 1-12). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within the method, as a way of allowing a subscriber/user to be able to block outgoing calls during specific times and days.

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4. In regards to claims 2 and 24, Brennan discloses the method, further comprising completing the call if the data associated with the calling line identification number does not indicate that calls to the called line are to be blocked (See Abstract and col. 11 lines 24-46).

5. In regards to claims 3 and 8, Brennan discloses the method, further comprising always completing a call to an emergency call line (See col. 2 lines 28-32 and col. 12 lines 15-17).

6. In regards to claims 4 and 7, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises a list of area codes to which calls are to be blocked (See 5 lines 15-18).

7. In regards to claim 6, Brennan discloses the method, wherein said data concerning calls to be blocked comprises all calls (See col. 6 lines 47-51).

8. In regards to claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21, La Porta discloses the method of activating an outgoing call blocking service, comprising: receiving a predetermined access code from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line; prompting a caller to provide data concerning calls to be blocked; receiving the provided data; and storing said data in a data store associated with the call blocking service (See col. 6 lines 19-42). La Porta, however, does not disclose activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day. Clarke, however, does disclose activating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day (See col. 1-2 lines 66-17 and col. 6 lines 1-12).

9. In regards to claims 15, 16, 17, and 18, Brennan discloses the method of deactivating a call blocking service, comprising; receiving a predetermined access code from a calling line at a central office associated with the calling line a predetermined access code corresponding to a call blocking service; prompting a caller for an authorization code (col.13 lines 25-29); retrieving a stored authorization code associated with said calling line identification number; and comparing the received authorization code with the stored authorization code (col. 4-5 lines 67-8). Brennan, however, does not pertain to outgoing calls. La Porta, however, does pertain to outgoing calls (See col. 6 lines 26-42). Brennan, neither La Porta, pertain to deactivating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day. Clarke, however, does pertain to deactivating the outgoing call blocking service at one of a pre-set time and a pre-set day (See col. 1-2 lines 66-17 and col. 6 lines 1-12).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Swan et al (US 6,263,071) teach a telecommunications functions management system providing distinctive alerting based on caller selected

option. Blood et al (US 6,456,706) teach an automatic telephone silent call screening system.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

13. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

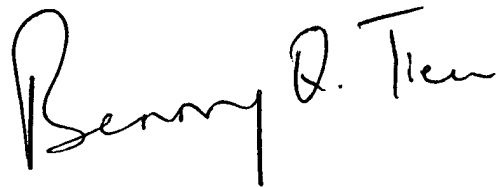
14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P. Knowlin whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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16. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benny D. Tieu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BENNY TIEU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A.U. 2642